

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 19, 22-40 and 43 were pending. By the present response, claims 19 and 36 have been amended and claim 26 has been canceled. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 19, 20-26, 27-40 and 43 are pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims

Entry of the foregoing is appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 for at least the following reasons. First, adding the contents of previously pending dependent claim 26 to claim 19 raises no new issues that would necessitate further search and/or substantive reexamination. Second, the amendments clearly overcome the grounds of rejection by adopting what the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 19, 23-25, 27-40 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,102,846 to Bentley et al. (hereafter "*Bentley et al.*") on the grounds set forth on page 2 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 26 has not been rejected on the above grounds. By the present response, the subject matter of claim 26 has been added to claim 19. Therefore the grounds for rejection have been obviated.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 22, 26 and 43 are objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim, but contain allowable subject matter as noted on page 4 of the Official Action. By the present response, allowable claim 26 has been merged into the sole independent claim, claim 19.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees associated with this response to Deposit Account 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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